

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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L. W. DENMARK, Proprietor and Business Manager.

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THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARALLEL TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY, is the motto of The Progressive Farmer...

Be sure to give both old and new addresses in ordering change of postoffice.

We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening...

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Journal of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

To be honest, to be kind, to earn a little and to spend a little less; to make upon the whole a family happier by his presence...

VOL XVII.

The first issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER was dated Feb. 10, 1886. With its last issue, therefore, it began its seventeenth volume.

To make each farmer who reads THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER a little better informed, a little more progressive and successful than his neighbor who does not read it...

We are about ready to agree with the old doctor whose striking rebuke to one of the most foolish of habits is recorded in the article, "Reckless Drug Taking."

The answers to Mrs. F. L. Stevens' tree conundrums, published on page 4 of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of Feb. 4th, are as follows: 1. Birch. 2. Palm. 3. Beech. 4. Spruce. 5. Ash. 6. Plum. 7. Chestnut. 8. Tulip. 9. Dogwood. 10. Fir. 11. Hawthorn. 12. "Old Hickory." 13. Sole. 14. (H)elm. 15. Laurel. 16. Olive.

THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENTS.

The bulletin on Johnson grass, referred to by our Washington correspondent, will doubtless interest many of our readers.

Harry Farmer furnishes some useful hints on Irish potato growing. Next week he will tell of a few common mistakes in farm fertilizing.

Mr. Warren's letter, "Our Friends in Feathers," directs attention to the value of birds to agriculture, upon which subject we had another article last week.

Within a few years we expect to see cheese making rather extensively carried on in North Carolina.

Director Redding's paper on the home-mixing of fertilizers is plain and practical.

The next article, "Dairying Pays," is short, but it contains material enough to keep one thinking for a week.

"The Elegy in a Country Churchyard" is universally recognized as one of the very greatest poems of the English language, and we make no apology for giving it two columns of our space.

Last week the leading article on page 4 was of special interest to women; this week's is addressed especially to young men, though all ages and both sexes, it seems to us, would find Ian Maclaren's article delightful and helpful reading.

"Making Impressions on a Child" reminds us of what a well-equipped teacher said to us last week: "I am almost afraid to teach, when I think of the responsibility of implanting my views and ideals in the minds of children."

We suppose that our good lady friends will say that a man—and of all men, a young man—should not have anything to say regarding woman's affairs; nevertheless, it seems to us that no other poem that we have published for years ought to set a woman to thinking so hard as that one on "Fashion" on page 5.

We are about ready to agree with the old doctor whose striking rebuke to one of the most foolish of habits is recorded in the article, "Reckless Drug Taking."

The new cabinet position, mentioned in the Outlook's article, may suit the commercial classes, but as a Labor Department it is a cowardly makeshift.

There are many good points in Secretary Allison's letter, but we cannot pass unnoticed his reference to the farmer's dislike of his own occupation.

It would really be of inestimably greater benefit to the people, and much more nearly in accord with the principles of our government, to vote millions for good roads than as a gift to ship building corporations.

THE GOOD ROADS CONGRESS.

Surprisingly successful was the Good Roads Congress held in Raleigh last week. The addresses were both inspiring and practical, the object lessons in road building striking, the attendance large, the enthusiasm marked.

And as a result of this meeting we believe that two facts—and very important ones they are—have been fixed in the minds of North Carolina people:—

First, that the good roads movement and the good school movement are so united that together they will rise or fall, prosper or decline. Until we get better roads, a full attendance of school children cannot be expected; and of what use is a long term unless the children attend?

Second, without roads a steady decline in population, wealth and influence confronts our rural districts; on the other hand, with improved highways, farmers will get the advantages of cheaper transportation, farm lands will advance in value, the social life of the country will be improved, better schools and rural free mail delivery will be assured, and twentieth century improvements and advantages (that have not been able to get over the old, slow mud roads from the town to the country) will be carried to the rural districts.

We must have better roads—that is plain. But how? A larger property tax for the purpose should be levied. We believe that the increase in value of farm lands alone would make the road tax a splendid financial investment for the farmer.

National aid may be desirable, but we think it will be years before it is given. But these matters will be discussed at greater length in future issues of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and we hasten now, to a report of the meeting held here last week.

THE SPEECHES.

The address of Col. W. H. Moore at the opening of the Congress was one of the best of the session. He realized that the great problem is, how to get the money. There are three ways of doing this, he said: (1) a general property tax, for good roads benefit everybody and enhance the value of all property; (2) by issuing bonds; (3) by State aid, as in Massachusetts where the State pays one third, the county one-third, and the farmers whose lands abut on the road the remaining third of the cost of road improvement, or as in Massachusetts where the State pays 50 per cent. of the total cost, the county 35 per cent., the farmer 15 per cent.

A new idea was introduced when Gen. M. C. Butler urged national aid for good roads. Congress votes millions annually for the improvement of rivers and harbors, for experiment stations and agricultural colleges. It is just as constitutional, he argued, to vote money to build good roads, and the people would be as greatly benefited as by the expenditure of money for the other purposes just named.

Capt. S. B. Alexander told in an interesting manner the history of the good roads movement in Mecklenburg—of the unpopularity of the law just after its passage by the Legislature, because of the hatred of a small increase in tax; the improvement in farm conditions that silenced these opponents of the law; the increase in land values, and the pride that every Mecklenburg man now feels in the country's roads.

argument in behalf of better roads as a help to the farmer. Our schools and churches would be greatly helped; the social life of the country would be improved. The saving that would result in the hauling of farm products and fertilizers would be astonishing. We shall publish later an extended report of Mr. Parker's speech.

Two points were emphasized in the address of Dr. George T. Winston, the first that bad roads in this State cost our people \$10,000,000 annually, but because it is an indirect tax the people prefer to pay it rather than spend a few hundred thousand per year for good roads; second, that the bad condition of our highways, more than any other one thing, is responsible for the too rapid drift of population from country to town.

In the note from Fred R. Crane, an Illinois farmer, which we publish in another column, he says that the most potent argument in behalf of better roads in Illinois is that good roads and rural free delivery of mails are inseparable—the farmer cannot enjoy the advantages of free mail delivery unless the roads are kept in good condition.

Senator Simmons appeared unexpectedly, and made a good speech. His declaration that the State ought to take its convicts off the eastern farms and put them at work on the public roads, was loudly applauded.

In the afternoon, Dr. Charles D. Melver delivered a thoughtful speech, an outline of which will probably appear in next week's PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE ORGANIZATION.

The organization of the "North Carolina Good Roads Association" was completed Thursday evening. The officers are as follows:

- President—P. H. Hanes, of Winston-Salem. Secretary—J. A. Holmes, of Chapel Hill. Treasurer—Jos. G. Brown, of Raleigh. The following district Vice-Presidents were elected: First—R. R. Cotton, Bruce. Second—W. R. Cox, Penolo. Third—William Dunn, Newbern. Fourth—Dr. R. H. Lewis, Raleigh. Fifth—A. W. Graham, Oxford. Sixth—Capt. A. B. Williams, Fayetteville. Seventh—Robert N. Page, Biscoe. Eighth—Theo. F. Klutz, Salisbury. Ninth—Capt. S. B. Alexander, Charlotte. Tenth—George S. Powell, Asheville.

The Executive Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the following other gentlemen: Messrs. S. L. Patterson, of Raleigh, A. W. Graham, of Oxford, W. A. Riddick, of Raleigh, and Paul Garrett of Weldon.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The following six resolutions in regard to good roads work may be taken as the platform of the Association at this time:

"Resolved 1, That we endorse the work of the office of Public Road Inquiries of the United States Department of Agriculture, for the betterment of the public highways of the country, and that we believe that this office should be enlarged into a bureau of the Department of Agriculture with sufficient appropriation at its disposal to extend its work, and that we especially urge the Senators and Representatives of North Carolina in Congress to vote for the appropriation for this office asked for this year by the Secretary of Agriculture.

"2. That we believe that it is just as important that the National Government assist in the improvement of the common highways and post roads of the country as it is for it to care for the rivers and harbors; and we therefore favor Federal appropriations for highway construction—such appropriations to be distributed among the States and to be expended

only where there is a State appropriation equal to the amount apportioned by the General Government.

"3. That this convention hereby heartily endorse the work of the National Good Roads Association in organizing, and commend its plan of organization of branch Associations in each State, Territory and county for thorough co-operative action under a systematized plan.

"4. That we favor and advocate the enactment of legislation providing for the office of Highway Commissioner of North Carolina, and the annual appropriation of sufficient funds to enable that office to give proper supervision to road improvements in the State.

"5. That this Convention recommends that the General Assembly of North Carolina make provision for giving instruction in road building at both the State University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College.

"6. That this Convention urges a more extended use of convict labor in road building in North Carolina, and respectfully asks the General Assembly of this State to adopt a system, which will provide for the employment of all its able-bodied male convicts either in actual work on the public roads or in the preparation of materials therefor."

The action of the Republican caucus seems to mean certain death for the Crumpacker bill. Its adoption would mean the loss of three Congressmen to North Carolina—making our representation in the next House seven instead of ten.

PASSAGE OF THE ANTI-OLEOMARGARINE BILL.

We learn with much pleasure that the anti-oleomargarine bill passed the House last week by the decisive vote of 162 to 118. But our friend, the Raleigh Post, surprises us by speaking of the matter in this wise: "The oleomargarine bill—which if it should become a law will be seriously hurtful to the farmers of the South, passed the House by a good majority."

As a matter of fact, the bill would greatly benefit the farmers of the South—and, if we are not mistaken, the Post itself expressed that opinion after a study of the matter two years ago. We wish the editor of the Post would go out to the A. and M. College some day and see the good work of the two or three score young men and one young lady, who are taking the splendid dairying course at the institution, and are going out into different sections of North Carolina to begin the development of commercial dairying to which our State is so admirably adapted—an industry that means millions annually to Northern agriculture and would mean millions to North Carolina, if properly developed.

More than that, the people themselves see it, as is attested by Dr. Burkett's dairy class, representing three generations and both sexes. If we can only keep oleo. from masquerading under false colors—and that is all this anti-oleomargarine bill proposes: no tax on oleo. sold for what it is and in its natural color, a tax only on that colored to deceive, to imitate butter—if we can only keep this fraud out of sheep's clothing, we say, the dairying and cheese-making industries of North Carolina will prosper wonderfully, and add much wealth to our State.

Nor will this anti-oleomargarine bill decrease the price of cotton seed. Less than five per cent. of the composition of oleomargarine is cotton seed oil; we believe that a greater proportion of cotton seed products are now used in dairy herds in the production of a pound of butter than is used in the oleo. factories to produce a pound of that stuff.

Let us push forward dairying in North Carolina. All honor to our far-sighted Representatives, Pou, Klutz, Moody and Blackburn, who voted for the bill to put oleo on its own merits! May our two Senators follow their example!

It will be a month or more before we can fill further orders for copies of Bailey's "Principles of Agriculture" or Voorhees' Fertilizers. The edition has been exhausted, but the publishers are now printing a fresh supply, which will soon be ready.

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

Another meeting, hardly less noteworthy than the Good Roads Congress, was held in Raleigh last week. It was a conference of the most prominent educators of our State, representing nearly all our best-known schools, as is shown by the list of names appended to the address with which we conclude this article. The meeting was largely attended, and characterized by the same spirit of determination that marks the appeal that was issued. We believe that the organization of this "Central Campaign Committee for the Promotion of Public Education in North Carolina" is to do a great work for our State. A fund of \$4,000 to defray its expenses has been secured. Its executive committee consists of Gov. Aycock, Gen. Toon and Dr. McIver. The interest felt by press and pulpit in the cause of public education is to be guided systematically, in the hope of securing practical results.

Our space being limited this week, we shall not say more at this time. The address speaks for itself, and is as follows:

A RINGING ADDRESS ON COMMON SCHOOL PROBLEMS.

Profoundly convinced of the prophetic wisdom of the declaration of the fathers, made at Halifax in 1776, that "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," and cognizant of the full meaning of that recent constitutional enactment which debars from the privilege of the suffrage, after 1908, all persons who cannot read and write; and relying on the patriotism and foresight of North Carolinians to deal with a great question which vitally concerns the material and social welfare of themselves and their posterity, we, in an educational conference assembled in the city of Raleigh, this February 13, 1902, are moved to make the following declaration of educational, facts and principles:

1. To-day, more fully than at any other time in our past history, do North Carolinians recognize the overshadowing necessity of universal education in the solution of those problems which a free government must solve in perpetuating its existence.

2. No free government has ever found any adequate means of universal education, except free public schools, open to all, supported by the taxes of all its citizens, where every child regardless of condition in life or circumstances of fortune, may receive that opportunity for training into social service which the constitutions of this and other great States and the age demand.

3. We realize that our State has reached the constitutional limit of taxation for the rural schools, that she has made extra appropriations to lengthen the term of these schools to 80 days in the year. We realize, too, that the four months' term now provided is inadequate, for the reason that more than 14,000,000 children of school age in the United States outside of North Carolina are now provided an average of 145 days of school out of every 365; that the teachers of these children are paid an average salary of \$48 per month; while the teachers of the children of North Carolina are paid hardly \$25 per month, thus securing for all the children of our sister States more efficient training for the duties of life. And we further realize that for every man, woman and child of its population, the country at large is spending \$2.83 for the education of its children, while North Carolina is spending barely 67 cents; that the country at large is spending on an average of \$20.29 for every pupil enrolled in its public schools, while North Carolina is spending only \$3 or \$4, the smallest amount expended by any State in the Union; that the average amount spent for the education of every child of school age in the United States is approximately \$9.50, while North Carolina is spending \$1.78.

These facts should cause our pride and our patriotism, and lead us to inquire whether the future will hold this generation responsible for the perpetuation of conditions that have resulted in the multiplicity of small school districts, inferior school houses, poorly paid teachers, and necessarily poor teaching; that have resulted in 20 white illiterates out of every 100 white population over 10 years of age, in generally poor and poorly paid supervision of the expenditure of our meagre school funds and of the teaching done in our